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## OCTOBER 21.

MR. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-nine persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication :—

“On the Cuspidiform Petroglyphs, or so-called Bird-track Rock-Sculptures, of Ohio,” by D. G. Brinton, M. D.

“Preliminary Observations on the Brain of *Menopoma*,” by Henry F. Osborn.

## OCTOBER 28.

The President, DR. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-nine persons present.

*Organisms in Ice*.—Prof. LEIDY stated that a member had placed in his hands, for examination, a vial of water obtained from melting ice which is used for cooling drinking-water. From time to time, among some sediment taken from a water-cooler, the gentleman had observed what he supposed to be living worms, which he suspected were introduced with the water into the cooler, and not with the ice. Upon melting some of the ice alone, the worms were still observed, and the water submitted for examination was some that was thus obtained. Prof. Leidy was surprised to find a number of worms among some flocculent sediment, mainly consisting of vegetal hairs and other debris. Besides the worms, there were also immature *Anguillulas*, and a number of *Rotifer vulgaris*, all living. It would appear that these animals had all been contained in the ice, and had been liberated on melting. It was an unexpected source of contamination of our drinking-water, that Prof. Leidy had previously supposed to be very improbable. The little worms he was not familiar with.

They belong to the family of Lumbricidæ, and probably may be an undescribed species of *Lumbriculus*. They are white, or colorless, from 4 to 6 millimeters long, by a third of a millimeter in thickness. The body is divided into thirty segments, bearing podal spines, which form four rows, with three in each fasciculus, and divergent. The spines are curved at the root, pointed at the free end, and measure 0.05 to 0.06 mm. long. The upper lip is blunt conical; the terminal segment truncate. There appears to be no distinct girdle, but the third, fourth, and fifth segments contain capsuligenous glands and other organs pertaining to the sexual apparatus.

Several dead worms swarmed in the interior with large, ovate, beaked, ciliated infusorians measuring from 0.05 to 0.06 mm. long by 0.04 to 0.048 mm. broad.

Chapter I, Article 6, of the By-Laws was amended by the addition of the following:—"Neither the building occupied by the society, nor any part of the site or ground pertaining thereto, shall be sold, leased, encumbered or charged in any manner whatever, nor shall any apartment or space in the Academy or adjacent ground be assigned or appropriated permanently to the exclusive use of any person or to the accommodation of any special collection or collections, unless the proposition in this connection be in writing, signed by at least five members, presented at a stated meeting of the Academy, referred to the Council for examination and report—which report shall be considered as special business, to be acted upon at a subsequent stated meeting, to be held at least twenty-six days after that at which the report of the Council has been read, the date to be fixed by resolution; but no action shall be taken thereon until after full notice thereof and of said date shall be given to the members by advertisement once a week, for three weeks in two daily newspapers of general circulation in Philadelphia, and by written or printed notice by mail or otherwise to all the members whose residences or places of business shall be known to the Recording Secretary. At such meeting the measure proposed may be considered and adopted by two-thirds of the members present at that meeting, or at any subsequent adjourned meeting for that purpose, provided that at least eighty members be present and vote; and provided also that nothing in this article shall be so construed as to change, alter or repeal Art. 5, Chapter XI, or release the curators from the charge and care of collections, as provided for in these by-laws."

Chapter XVI, Article 4, of the By-Laws was amended as follows:—"In the third line, after the word "inclusive," insert the words "except Article 6, Chap. I" and add the followings words or paragraph:—"Article 6, Chap. I, may be amended, altered or repealed by two-thirds, upon a yea and nay vote of not less than eighty members, at a meeting called to consider that special business, after advertisement and individual notification of the members, in manner and form specified in said article, but not otherwise."

The following were elected members:—George Fales Baker, W. B. Scott, Edmund J. James, and H. LaBarre Jayne.

The following were elected correspondents:—G. Vom Rath, of Bonn, and Geo. E. Dobson, of London.

The following were ordered to be printed:—